Message Text

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PLEASE PASS DOT

E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELTN, OTRA

SUBJECT: RAILROADS: PROPOSED VISIT OF JEREMY EPPEL

1. JEREMY EPPEL, ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINEE IN THE RAILWAYS DIRECTORATE OF THE U.K. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, WILL SOON BE IN THE U.S., AND HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE OUR GIVING HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION. MR. EPPEL PROPOSES TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 28 VIA AMTRAK FROM NEW YORK. HE WILL CONSULT WITH THE U.K. EMBASSY THE MORNING OF AUGUST 29 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIAL THAT AFTERNOON AND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS (AUGUST 30-31). THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT SUGGESTS THAT HE MIGHT START IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WITH AN OVERVIEW OF U.S. RAIL POLICY. SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS COULD BE ARRANGED AS SEEMS DESIRABLE IN LIGHT OF HIS PURPOSES.

2. MR. EPPEL IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPECT TO RAILWAYS. WHAT ARE THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, THE FEDERAL RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION, AND UMTA?

B. THE FINANCING AND OPERATION OF AMTRAK AND CONRAIL.

C. THE ELECTRIFICATION OF RAIL LINES, PARTICU-LARLY HOW, AND HOW ACCURATELY, COSTS ARE ESTIMATED, AND

HOW THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IS JUSTIFIED.

- D. POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING THE COMPUTER, TO CURRENT RAIL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS TRACK LAYING AND ROLLING STOCK DESIGN. (MR. EPPEL WORKS CLOSELY WITH BRITISH EXPORTERS OF RAILROAD EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. HE WILL BE LOOKING FOR EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES, AMONG HIS OTHER INTERESTS, BUT READILY ENVISAGES A TWO-WAY FLOW.)
- 3. MR. EPPEL IS A YOUNG, RELATIVELY LOW-RANKING OFFICIAL, BUT HE IS ON A CAREER LADDER REACHING HIGH INTO THE BRITISH CIVIL SERVICE. ALREADY HE BRIEFS U.K. MINISTERS AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS DEPARTING FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, AND ORGANIZES VISITS OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE U.S., WHO ARE INTERESTED IN RAILROADS. IN ADDITION, THE VISIT REQUEST HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD BY THE MAN CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL VISITS BY U.S. OFFICIALS TO THE U.K. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A SUCCESSFUL VISIT WILL PAY BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM DIVIDENDS, AND SUGGESTS THAT MR. EPPEL BE RECEIVED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS.
- 4. PLEASE ADVISE.

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